



REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE

Borough of Barnstaple

FOR THE YEAR 1965

BOROUGH OF BARNSTAPLE

Telephone :
BARNSTAPLE 2591.

Public Health Department,
The Castle,
BARNSTAPLE.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1965

E. WILLIAMS,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

W. RODGERS,
M.A.P.H.I.,
Chief Public Health Inspector



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REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To : His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors
of the Borough of Barnstaple.

Mr. Mayor, Madam & Gentlemen,

I wish to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Borough for the Year 1965.

The Registrar General's mid-year estimated population figure for the year was 16,330 - an increase of 50 over the previous year's population.

Live births fell from 328 in 1964, to 295 in 1965. Deaths increased to 269, as compared with 252 in the previous year.

There were 9 infant deaths under the age of 1 year, 3 of which occurred in illegitimate infants. This compares unfavourably with 1964, when a single infant death occurred. The Infant Mortality Rate, therefore, increased from 5.04 in 1964, to 30.5 in 1965. The causes of infant deaths, in the main, were due to prematurity or congenital abnormalities. One infant died from respiratory infection.

There were no deaths in young persons between the ages of 1 - 14 years. In the age-group 15 - 34 years there occurred 5 deaths. 3 of these were due to road accidents, 2 being motor cyclists.

After a temporary pause in the building of Council houses, a start was made in the erection of 152 dwellings on the Frankmarsh Estate, and 24 old persons' flats and 13 three-bed-roomed flats at Magdalene Lawn.

The total number of applicants for Council houses on the Housing Manager's list at December, 1965, was 317. Of these 105 lived outside the Borough.

I should like to express my appreciation of the help and interest given by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee in the work of the Department, and also the Department Staff for their co-operation at all times.

Yours faithfully,

E. WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health.

HEALTH COMMITTEE

YEAR 1965/66

His Worship the Mayor : Alderman W. H. Wilkey, J.P.

Chairman : Alderman G. Casey

Aldermen : F. A. Dunning
F. A. H. Holland, J.P.

Councillors : J. Bartlett
W. J. Bond
R. C. Chugg (from Nov., 1965)
A. C. Dibble
D. G. Potter
J. H. Rayner, C.C.
E. J. Shobbrook (to Oct., 1965)
E. J. Wright

S T A F F

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The Staff of the Public Health Department consists of :-

Part-time Officer -

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health

Whole-time Officers -

W. RODGERS, M.A.P.H.I.,

Chief Public Health Inspector

F. V. PYE, M.A.P.H.I.,

Additional Public Health Inspector

MISS E. M. FENNELL

Clerk

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH -

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,396
Population (Registrar-General's Mid-Year Estimate)							16,330
" at 1961 Census	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,944
Rateable value (as at 1-4-1965)	...	...	...	...	...	...	£57,613
Product of a Penny Rate (Year 1965/66)	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,706
General Rate in £. for Year 1965/66	...	...	...	...	...	...	11s/0d.
Number of Inhabited Houses (as at 1.4.1966)	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,117
Number of Corporation Houses (as at 31.12.1965)	..						1,264
Density of Persons per House	...	...	...	...	...	...	3.19

Extracts from Vital Statistics -

Births : Area Comparability Factor	...	...	...	...	...	1.05
Deaths : " " " "	...	...	...	...	...	0.78

VITAL STATISTICS -

Live Births -

Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	295
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	18.06
Rate per 1,000 population, adjusted by Comp. Factor							18.96

Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births 9.80

Stillbirths -

Number	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Rate per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births	...						6.73

Total Live & Still Births 297

Infant Deaths (Deaths under 1 year) 9

Infant Mortality Rates -

Total Infant Deaths per 1,000 Total Live Births							30.50
Legit. " " " " Legit. " "							20.33
Illegit. " " " " Illegit. " "							6.78

Neo natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 Total Live Births) 13.55

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 Total Live Births) .. 10.17

Perinatal Mortality Rate (Stillbirths, and Deaths under 1 week combined, per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births) 16.83

Maternal Mortality (including Abortion) -

Number of Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 Total Live & Still Births	...						Nil

Deaths	...	...	...	...	269
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	16.47
" " " " " adjusted by Comp. Factor					12.84

POPULATION, BIRTHS & DEATHS TABLE FOR THE BOROUGH SINCE 1948 -

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u> (Regist. Gen. Estimate)	<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
1948	16,000	317	242
1949	15,940	287	227
1950	16,060	230	217
1951 (Census)	16,299	263	241
1952	16,130	266	198
1953	16,090	261	314
1954	16,080	246	227
1955	15,930	239	227
1956	15,790	233	220
1957	15,750	255	227
1958	15,660	244	223
1959	15,520	281	214
1960	15,550	261	233
1961 (Census)	15,944	280	284
1962	15,650	289	228
1963	15,890	324	235
1964	16,280	328	252
1965	16,330	295	269

BIRTHS -

During the year there were 295 live births, which was 33 less than occurred during 1964.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Live Births -</u>			
Legitimate ...	139	127	266
Illegitimate ...	8	21	29
	<u>147</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>295</u>
	<u>==</u>	<u>==</u>	<u>==</u>

The number of home confinements was 36, which is approximately 12% of the total live births.

<u>North Devon</u> <u>Infirmary</u>	<u>Highfield</u> <u>Maternity Home</u>	<u>At Home</u>	<u>Bicclescombe</u> <u>Hospital,</u> <u>Ilfracombe</u>
66	167	36	4
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population 18.06			
" " " " " adjusted by Comp.Factor 18.96			
Birth Rate for England & Wales 18.1			

The Birth Rate (adjusted) for previous years and for 1965 is as follows :-

1948 ... 19.8	1954 ... 15.90	1960 ... 17.28
1949 ... 18.0	1955 ... 15.60	1961 ... 18.58
1950 ... 14.32	1956 ... 15.34	1962 ... 19.01
1951 ... 16.15	1957 ... 16.67	1963 ... 21.41
1952 ... 16.32	1958 ... 16.04	1964 ... 21.15
1953 ... 16.05	1959 ... 18.64	1965 ... 18.96

Still Births -

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	1	-	1

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	0.12
" " " " " Total Live & Still Births	6.73

DEATHS -

The total number of deaths of Borough residents during the year was 269, as compared with 252 in 1964.

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
135	134	269

Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	16.47
" " " " " adjusted by Comp. Factor					12.84
" " " " " for England & Wales					11.5

The Death Rate (adjusted) for previous years and for 1965 is as follows :-

1950	...	10.8	1955	...	11.54	1960	...	12.43
1951	...	11.81	1956	...	12.25	1961	...	15.36
1952	...	9.65	1957	...	12.68	1962	...	11.79
1953	...	15.41	1958	...	12.24	1963	...	12.41
1954	...	11.42	1959	...	11.29	1964	...	12.99
						1965	...	12.84

The following table shows the Causes of Death :-

				<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis - Respiratory	...			-	-	-
" - Other	...	...		-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	...	...	...	-	-	-
Diphtheria	...	...	...	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	...	...		-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...		-	-	-
Measles	...	...	...	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases				-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm - Stomach	...			4	2	6
" " - Lung, Bronchus				10	1	11
" " - Breast	...			-	8	8
" " - Uterus	...			-	4	4
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms				10	13	23
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	...	...		-	1	1
Diabetes	...	...	...	1	-	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System				9	13	22
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	...		34	14	48
Hypertension with Heart Disease				4	3	7
Other Heart Disease	...	...		25	50	75
Other Circulatory Disease	...			4	1	5
Influenza	...	...	...	-	-	-

- continued on next page -

Causes of Death (continued from Page 8)

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pneumonia	8	7	15
Bronchitis	5	-	5
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	1	2
Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	1	2	3
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	9	9	18
Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	1	6
All Other Accidents	3	2	5
Suicide	1	1	2
Homicide and Operations of War ...	-	-	-
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>135</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>269</u>

Deaths occurred in the following age-groups :-

Under 1 year ...	9	45 - 54 years ...	8
1 - 4 years ...	-	55 - 64 " ...	42
5 - 14 " ...	-	65 - 74 " ...	68
15 - 24 " ...	3	75 - 84 " ...	84
25 - 34 " ...	2	85 - 94 " ...	45
35 - 44 " ...	3	95 + " ...	5

Neonatal Deaths -

This represents the number of deaths occurring in infants under the age of 4 weeks :-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate ...	2	-	2
Illegitimate ...	1	1	2

Neo-natal Death Rate per 1,000 Total Live Births 13.55

Infant Mortality Rate -

During the year, 9 infants died under the age of 1 year,
viz :-

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	...	5	1	6
Illegitimate	...	1	2	3

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Total Live Births : 30.5

Causes of death were as follows :-

F.	1 hour	:	Prematurity.
F.	3 hours	:	Prematurity.
M.	18 hours	:	Caesarian section.
M.	7 days	:	Pneumonia; Prematurity.
M.	1 month	:	Broncho-Pneumonia.
M.	1 month	:	Prematurity.
F.	3 months	:	Hydrocephalus; Spina Bifida.
M.	6 months	:	Congenital heart disease.
M.	7 months	:	Congenital heart disease; Mongolism.

Maternal Mortality - NIL.

Cancer Deaths -

There were 52 deaths from Cancer during the year : 16 more than in 1964 :-

			<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Stomach	...	...	4	2	6
Lungs & Bronchus	...	...	10	1	11
Breast	...	...	-	8	8
Uterus	...	...	-	4	4
Other	...	...	10	13	23
			<u>24</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>52</u>

Cancer of the Lung & Bronchus -

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Year</u> 1950 ...	3	1	3	<u>Year</u> 1958 ...	9	-	9
1951 ...	2	-	2	1959 ...	4	1	5
1952 ...	2	-	2	1960 ...	13	2	15
1953 ...	3	3	6	1961 ...	9	1	10
1954 ...	5	1	6	1962 ...	7	3	10
1955 ...	5	-	5	1963 ...	6	1	7
1956 ...	8	-	8	1964 ...	5	1	6
1957 ...	6	1	7	1965 ...	10	1	11

Cancer of the lung in males increased from 5 in 1964 to 10 in 1965. In females the number remained the same, viz. 1.

The total number of Cancer Deaths, and the percentage of Cancer Deaths to Total Deaths since 1950 are shown in the following table :-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total No. of Deaths</u>	<u>Cancer Deaths</u>			<u>Percentage of Cancer Deaths to Total Deaths</u>
		<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	
1950	217	15	11	26	11.9%
1951	241	14	12	26	10.7%
1952	198	9	17	26	13.1%
1953	314	22	27	49	15.6%
1954	227	15	23	38	16.7%
1955	227	15	15	30	13.2%
1956	220	23	17	40	18.1%
1957	227	18	11	29	12.7%
1958	223	24	27	51	22.8%
1959	214	17	18	35	16.3%
1960	233	24	20	44	18.8%
1961	284	26	19	45	15.8%
1962	228	18	27	45	19.7%
1963	235	23	12	35	14.8%
1964	252	16	20	36	14.2%
1965	269	24	28	52	19.3%

INFECTIOUS DISEASES -

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases notified during 1965, arranged in age-groups :-

AGE GROUPS	Dysentery (Salmonella)	Encephalitis	Erysipelas	Measles	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Scarlet Fever	Tuber- culosis		Whooping Cough
								Pulmonary	Non-Pulm.	
Under 1 year	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 +	-	-	-	5	-	-	1	-	-	1
2 +	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	1
3 +	-	-	-	3	-	-	1	-	-	1
4 +	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
5 - 9	-	1	-	11	-	-	1	-	-	2
10 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
15 - 19	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
20 - 34	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
35 - 44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
45 - 64	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ...	1	1	1	25	1	2	4	1	1	7

* Dysentery (Salmonella) : F.9 months. Isolated case, cause not identified.

** Encephalitis : M. 8 years. Post Infectious (Mumps).

*** Tuberculosis - Pulm. : M.16 years. Immigrant. Infection diagnosed on arrival.

**** Tuberculosis - Non-Pulm. : M.43 years.

There were no cases of Poliomyelitis in the Borough, and no cases of Diphtheria, the last case of this latter disease occurring 20 years ago.

There were also no official notifications of Food Poisoning.

There was 1 case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and 1 case of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year.

INCIDENCE OF PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS SINCE 1946.

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Cases of Pulm.T.B.</u>	<u>Case Rate per 1,000 Population</u>	<u>No. of Deaths</u>	<u>Death Rate per 1,000 Population.</u>
1946	15	0.94	13	0.82
1947	9	0.56	6	0.37
1948	11	0.68	6	0.37
1949	5	0.31	3	0.18
1950	9	0.56	2	0.12
1951	18	1.11	7	0.43
1952	12	0.74	3	0.18
1953	8	0.49	2	0.12
1954	4	0.24	-	-
1955	5	0.31	1	0.06
1956	12	0.76	-	-
1957	6	0.37	-	-
1958	11	0.76	1	0.06
1959	13	0.83	1	0.06
1960	8	0.51	1	0.06
1961	3	0.19	1	0.06
1962	3	0.19	-	-
1963	6	0.37	1	0.06
1964	-	-	-	-
1965	1	0.06	-	-

The following table shows the number of cases on the Borough Tuberculosis Register at the beginning and the end of the year 1965 :-

1965	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	
1st January	68	33	101	9	11	20	121
31st December	68	32	100	10	11	21	121

THE MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT now visits the Borough every fortnight : on alternate Thursdays between the hours of 9.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. It is situate in The Castle Grounds, and is available to the general public (except children under 15 years of age, and expectant mothers), and is also available for cases referred by General Practitioners in the area.

HOUSING -

During the year, 20 houses were completed by the Corporation, viz. one and two-bedroomed flats at Congram's Close, Newport. Also a start was made on the erection of 152 dwellings on the Frankmarsh Estate, and 24 old persons' flats and 13 three-bedroomed flats at Magdalene Lawn, Vicarage Street.

16 families remain to be re-housed from dwellings confirmed by the Ministry as being unfit.

The number of dwellings built by private enterprise during the year was 70.

WATER SUPPLIES -

The water supply to the Borough has again been adequate in quantity and satisfactory in quality throughout the year.

The water is supplied by the North Devon Water Board. The water intake is from two sources : one from the River Yeo at a point some 5 miles from the town; this water gravitates to the Treatment Works at Pilton, where it is first filtered through sand filter-beds, and then chlorinated. The other source of supply is from the Water Board's reservoir at Wistlandpound. This is also treated by filtration and chlorination.

During the year, 93 bacteriological samples were submitted for examination. 92 were satisfactory.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT -

I am obliged to the Barnstaple Meteorological Station at The North Devon Athenaeum for the following information regarding local weather statistics :-

Barometer : Highest reading : 30.6 inches on 5th Jan., 1965;
Lowest " : 28.4 " " 20th Jan., 1965.

Temperature : Maximum : 76° on 13th May & 12th Aug. "
Minimum : 20° on 3rd March, 1965;
Mean for the Year : 48°F.

Rainfall : 41.42 inches.
Average for preceding 10 years : 34.1 inches.
Number of days on which .01 or more inches of rain fell : 181.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION -

Protective immunization and vaccination against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Smallpox and Poliomyelitis are undertaken by the General Practitioners, and at the Infant Welfare and School Clinics. There are three Infant Welfare Clinics in Barnstaple : these are held at Alexandra Road Clinic weekly, and at Sticklepath and Forches Clinics fortnightly.

"MEALS ON WHEELS" -

This service is still run by the J.V.S. The meals are prepared at a local Restaurant, from where they are collected and distributed. At present, the number of meals distributed is limited to 24 each week. However, the Hawley Occupational Centre is now nearing completion, and when it is finished these meals will be prepared in the kitchen there. It is hoped that the number of meals prepared for distribution to the elderly will then be increased.

CARE OF THE AGED -

Where possible, elderly people who are living alone are given every assistance to enable them to remain as long as possible in their own homes. They are visited by Health Visitors, and, in cases of ill-health, by the District Nurses. The W.V.S. also visit the elderly and assist by doing their shopping, etc. Two "Darby and Joan Clubs" exist in the town, one in the Pilton district, the other at Newport. Both these Clubs are run by the W.V.S.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Sec.47, and AMENDMENT ACT, 1951 -

This Section deals with the compulsory removal of elderly persons from their own homes to a County Welfare Home. No cases were dealt with under this Section during the year.

MATERNITY CASES -

At the North Devon Infirmary there is a Ward of 14 beds for maternity cases, with a fully-qualified staff available for cases of doubt or difficulty.

A General Practitioners' Maternity Unit of 13 beds is situated at "Highfield", Victoria Road, Barnstaple.

At Bicclescombe Hospital, Ilfracombe, there are 10 beds for maternity and ante-natal patients, and during the year, 5 Barnstaple births took place at this Hospital.

There are also 4 beds for maternity cases at Braunton Nursing Home, but no Barnstaple births occurred there in 1965.

ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES -

There is an Infectious Diseases section at the Kingsley Hospital, Bideford, which serves Barnstaple as well as other Local Authorities in North Devon.

SMALLPOX -

During the year, the Hospital previously available for the reception of any Smallpox cases in the area, viz. the Upton Pyne Hospital, near Exeter, was closed. Arrangements have now been made that Liskeard Smallpox Hospital will be the "first-line" reception hospital for any Smallpox cases from the Counties of Devon and Cornwall, with Lee Mill Hospital as "second-line" hospital.

GENERAL -

The North Devon Infirmary, situated in Barnstaple, serves the area, and provides modern medical and surgical treatment for the residents of the District. There are 113 beds.

Two wards, with a total of 33 beds, at the Alexandra Hospital, Barnstaple, are set aside as an Annexe to the North Devon Infirmary, and post-operative and recovery patients are transferred there as soon as possible.

There are 100 beds for the chronic sick at the Alexandra Hospital.

LABORATORY -

The Public Health Laboratory, of which Dr. B. Moore is the Director, is situated at Bradninch Place, Gandy Street, Exeter. It is completely installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all Doctors.

Bacteriological examinations of drinking water and milk are also carried out there.

There is also a Pathological Laboratory at 75 Boutport Street, Barnstaple, with a full-time Pathologist and technical staff to meet the needs of the whole North Devon area.

The Blood Bank is also situated at this local Laboratory.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES -

V.D. Clinic : This is held at The North Devon Infirmary, Glossop Annexe :-

Sessions

<u>MALES</u>	(Mondays, 5.15 p.m.	<u>FEMALES</u>	(Mondays, 4.00 p.m.
	(Thursdays, 5.45 p.m.		(Thursdays, 4.30 p.m.

Chest Clinic : held at The North Devon Infirmary, Glossop Annexe :-

Sessions

Tuesdays, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. : Clinic & X-ray Examinations.

Infant Welfare Clinics : There are now three Infant Welfare Clinics in Barnstaple. These are held on the following days :-

Alexandra Road Clinic -

Every Tuesday afternoon : 2 - 4 p.m.,

Every Thursday afternoon : 2 - 4 p.m.

St. Paul's Church Hall Clinic, Sticklepath -

2nd & 4th Friday of each month : 2 - 4 p.m.

Forches Estate Clinic (Borough Arms Hotel) -

1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month : 2 - 4 p.m.

Dental Clinic : held daily at the Alexandra Road Clinic, for expectant mothers, school children, and children under 5 years.

Eye Clinic : held at the Alexandra Road Clinic every 2nd Friday of each month, for school children, and children under 5 years.

Ante-natal Clinic : at Alexandra Road Clinic, held by the District Nurses and Health Visitors, every Monday afternoon. The Physio-therapist from the Hospital is also in attendance.

Family Planning Clinic : This Clinic is run by the Exeter and District Women's Welfare Association, and is held on the 1st Tuesday of each month from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 113 Boutport Street, Barnstaple. A lady doctor is in attendance.

A Birth Control Clinic is held every 3rd Tuesday of the month between 5.30 and 8.30 p.m. at the same Centre. Visits by appointment only.

Hearing Clinic : This is held at the Alexandra Road Clinic on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, between 9.30 a.m. and 12 noon, for school-children and children under 5 years.

A Specialist Hearing Clinic is held at the North Devon Infirmary on the 4th Wednesday of the month, between 2 and 4 p.m., for school children and children under 5 years.

Minor Ailments Clinic : held each Friday morning, 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon, at the Alexandra Road Clinic.

Speech Therapy Clinic : held each Wednesday at the Alexandra Road Clinic.

Chiropody Service : This service operates at the Alexandra Road Clinic every Wednesday and Friday. The W.V.S. arrange the rotas and assist the Chiropodists generally. The charge is 2/6d., but the service is free for Old Age Pensioners receiving National Assistance, also to expectant mothers.

AMBULANCE SERVICES -

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Local Health Authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) is responsible for the provision of an Ambulance Service, and the Devon County Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. The Brigade serves the Borough and the district around, and the Headquarters are in Commercial Road, Barnstaple; telephone Barnstaple : 2600. The staff consists of four paid members (full-time), 20 men volunteers, and 14 volunteer nurses.

The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available upon application to the Hospital by the Doctor concerned, and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when the Ambulance is not necessary.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME -

There are 5 District Nurse/Midwives practising in the Borough.

REPORT OF CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To : His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen & Councillors
of the Borough of Barnstaple.

Mr. Mayor, Madam & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit a Report on the work done by your Public Health Inspectors during the Year 1965.

Again, there were no changes in the personnel of the Department during the year. Behind this bald statement, so often re-printed in these Reports, lies a state of affairs certainly unique in the local government of Barnstaple, and with few parallels elsewhere. It is simply this : that the numerical strength of the Department has now remained unaltered for 20 years, a period in which, especially with regard to the last decade, the work laid upon (and performed by) its Officers has increased so greatly in many fields. One need mention only two branches of the Public Health Department's work to emphasise this : the great programme of Slum Clearance which meant the individual inspection of over 700 houses, and the recording of each in detail before even any other progress was possible; and the terrific increase in throughput at the Public Abattoir when Ministry control was lifted in 1954, and the figures for previous years were easily doubled.

The Meat Inspection Regulations of 1963 were needed to make the 100% inspection of carcasses a statutory duty of a Local Authority - even that not fully realised until this present year - but it had already been a perennial feature here. One need only recall the spate of advertisements of "Appointments Vacant", especially for Meat Inspectors, which followed the introduction of these Regulations, to realise that not all Local Authorities had been so vigilant, nor, one may venture to say, so served. (The happy state of affairs referred to here had, of course, existed long before the appointment of the present writer.)

A similar injunction for compulsory inspection was made by the Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act of 1963, perhaps the biggest addition to the Department's work since the Housing Act of 1936, and intended to extend to all shop and office workers the protections which earlier Factory Acts had given to industrial workers.

To date, the Department has attempted to take this extra work in its stride, but, it must be confessed, with only very modest progress, yet with sufficient to show that many more enlightened employers than perhaps Government assumed had already done much to anticipate requirements in these respects.

So much for moralising and for history. The chief work of the Department in the year under review is summarised as follows :-

In Housing matters, the "blitz" of earlier years has left only few individual houses or very small groups of houses which warrant extreme treatment, and most of these would have been dealt with had new housing kept pace with requirements. It is disappointing, at least, to record that quite a few houses whose demolition was confirmed a year or so previously were still occupied because of this. There will always be individually unfit houses, just as there will always be sick persons and sinners, but the Housing Acts and Public Health Acts are equally aimed at repair and improvement as they are at demolition. It was found necessary to serve only 2 statutory notices of repair during the year, and the many informal notices were mostly complied with swiftly.

Houses demolished	: 6
Houses closed	: -
Parts of houses closed	: 2

Meat Inspection continued to be a regular daily duty and consumer of "lost week-ends". There were only 2,000 less animals slaughtered than in 1964. It is now certain that the disappearance - perhaps the replacement - of the Public Abattoir Barnstaple has known for over 100 years is to become a fact.

The virtual disappearance of tuberculosis as a disease of food animals will be noted from the accompanying table, but in Reports of not so many years ago it would have featured as being present in 33% of cows, and perhaps 20% of pigs inspected.

Refuse Collection and Disposal in 1965 was again a very successful service, and, perhaps the best "bargain" to local Rate-payers. The remarks made earlier anent staff personnel apply equally here, for the complement of men has actually decreased since cessation of serious salvage and since mechanisation of refuse disposal. Apart from an elderly vehicle kept as a spare, all refuse is now collected in compressing-bodied vehicles. The controlled tipping of refuse continued without any known complaint, and the areas filled in earlier years were being developed by at least four industrial concerns by the end of the year, during which year service roads and drainage were constructed to serve the growing estate. A visitor can scarcely comprehend that a large Foundry or other heavy buildings now stand on ground that twelve years ago was low-lying grazing land since covered and raised by tipping of the Borough's refuse. I am, as always, glad to say how well the often unpleasant work was carried out by all engaged in the service, for yet another year. It is not so pleasant to say how much this essential service is increasingly blamed for interference with traffic flow, especially when all rounds were carefully planned at the last major overhaul. The brewer, the butcher and the baker all play their parts in whatever traffic "snarls" take place in the Borough, but it seems to be this service which gets more than its share of blame.

In talking of food (other than meat), the trend toward the larger shop unit continued, and, as if to contradict the opening words of this sentence, the largest foodshops each have their butchery departments also. Generally the standard of food-shops was found to be very high; competition is no mean sharpener of method and performance. Butchers' Row remains the enigma - a delight to most strangers, an irritation to many local people, but, by any standards, vastly better than it was before the face-lift of a few years ago, and, in some obvious cases, excellent.

The following tables and figures are the matter-of-fact statements of the year's work; the foregoing an attempt at a more intimate account of what is, after all, a very human occupation. The Public Health Department is, or should be, Local Government's own Public Relations Service.

I am deeply grateful to the Chairman and members of the Health Committee especially, for their continued kindness and courtesy; to all members of the Council and staffs of other Departments : co-operation is never stinted. Above all, it has again been a pleasure to work with my colleagues of this Department, now a thoroughly seasoned team.

Your obedient servant,

W. RODGERS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

(1) MEAT INSPECTION -

Animals slaughtered and inspected were as follows :-

Beasts	...	2,294
Calves	...	245
Sheep	...	31,039
Pigs	...	8,379
		<hr/>
		41,957
		<hr/>

Meat condemned as unfit for human consumption :-

35 tons 2 cwts. 3 qrs. 7 lbs.

Whole carcasses condemned include the following :-

Beasts	...	54
Calves	...	47
Sheep	...	826
Pigs	...	26
		<hr/>
		953
		<hr/>

Incidence of Tuberculosis in Cows was 0.2%, against 0.4% in 1964.

Examinations for Cysticercus Bovis (the embryo form of a tapeworm infesting man) continued, and 11 cases were found, a decrease of 3 on the previous year. The incidence of infection was .56% against .50% in 1964.

There is no other Slaughterhouse licensed for use in the Borough.

9 Licences were issued to Slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

The following table is in the form prescribed for Annual Reports by the Ministry of Health :-

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Hors- es
Number killed	1,921	373	245	31,039	8,379	Nil
Number inspected	1,921	373	245	31,039	8,379	Nil
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI -</u>						
Whole Carcasses cond'd.	7	47	47	826	26	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ condemned ...	434	196	Nil	1,211	3	Nil
% of number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. & Cysticerci ...	22.9%	65.1%	19.1%	6.5%	0.3%	Nil
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY -</u>						
Whole Carcasses con- demned ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ condemned ...	3	1	Nil	Nil	141	Nil
% of number inspected affected with T.B.	0.1%	0.2%	Nil	Nil	1.6%	Nil
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS -</u>						
Carcase of which some part or organ condemned ...	11	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrig- eration ...	11	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

(2) FOOD PREMISES -

(a) The following is a list of Food Premises * in the Borough :-

Bread & Cakes	...	...	16
Cafes & Restaurants	...	...	18
Cooked Meats, etc.	...	...	3
Dairies	...	...	16
Fish (wet)	...	...	6
Fish & Chips	...	...	7
Fruit & Vegetables	...	...	25
Groceries & Provisions	...	...	64
Ice Cream	...	...	1
Meat	...	...	28
Mineral Water Factories	...	...	2
Public Houses & Hotels	...	...	40
Sweets & Confectionery	...	...	109
Wines & Spirits (Off-Licences)	...	...	4
			<hr/>
			339
			<hr/>

* N.B. Where, as often applies, a Food Shop deals in more than one of the specified commodities, the premises have been classified according to the predominating type of business.

(b) 136 premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, viz : 49 for the Preparation of Processed Foods, and 87 for the Sale of Ice Cream.

(c) Food Inspected and surrendered as unfit for human consumption was as follows :-

TINNED FOODS

						<u>tons</u>	<u>cwts.</u>	<u>qrs.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>oz.</u>
Baby Foods (strained)	...	15	tin(s)							
Chicken (whole)	...	7	")						
Cream	...	2	")						
Eggs	...	3	")						
Fish	...	89	")						
Fruit	...	851	")						
Fruit Juice	...	15	")						
Fruit Pie Filling	...	11	")						
Jams, Conserves	...	3	")						
Meat	...	270	"	)	1.	5.	1.	6.	7½	
Milk	...	43	")						
Milk Puddings	...	24	")						
Soups	...	42	")						
Steak & Kidney Pies	...	8	")						
Stew (Irish)	...	13	")						
Spaghetti	...	3	")						
Tomato Purée	...	5	")						
Vegetables	...	145	")						
		<u>1,549</u>	")						

OTHER FOODS

Bacon	...	...	...	-	-	3	6	0
Butter	...	...	...	-	-	-	2	8
Cheese	...	...	...	-	-	3	19	4
Chicken (42 whole)	...	...	...	-	1	0	25	0
Chocolate	...	...	...	-	-	-	2	0
Continental Sausage (various)	...	...	...	-	-	-	23	12
Cordials (28 bottles)	...	(Approx.)	...	-	-	2	0	0
Faggots (12)	...	(Approx.)	...	-	-	-	3	4
Fish (wet)	...	...	...	-	2	1	20	0

(continued :-

Other Foods (continued from Page 28)

			tons	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	oz.
Fruit (fresh)	...	...	-	1	3	14	0
Meat (excl. Slaughterhouse)	...	...	-	-	2	10	0
Meat (opened tins)	...	...	-	1	0	25	8
Pickle (1 jar)	...	...	-	-	-	1	0
Rissoles (44)	...	(Approx.)	-	-	-	11	0
Sausages	...	...	-	-	1	15	4
Tomato Purée (1 tube)	...	...	-	-	-	-	4
Veal, Ham & Egg Pie	...	...	-	-	2	1	4
Vegetable Salad	...	...	-	-	-	4	0
			-	10	3	16	0
+ Tinned Foods (page 28)	...		1	5	1	6	7
<u>TOTAL FOODS CONDEMNED</u>	...		1	16	0	22	7

N.B. Also condemned were total contents of 3 Frozen Food Cabinets, due to breakdown in refrigeration mechanism.
(Weight not ascertainable)

(3) ICE CREAM -

39 samples of Ice Cream were taken during the year for bacteriological examination, with the following results :-

PRODUCER	Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV	TOTAL
'A'	16	2	-	1	19
'B'	10	6	2	1	19
'C'	1	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	27	8	2	2	39

(4) MILK & DAIRIES -

The number of Producer-Retailers in the Borough is now 7, and from these, 12 samples of milk were submitted to the County Public Health Laboratory for the detection of Tuberculosis and Brucella Abortus. All were negative.

(5) INFECTIOUS DISEASE INVESTIGATION -

1 case of Dysentery (Salmonella) was investigated, but the cause was not ascertainable.

(6) DISINFECTION -

Total disinfections : 5, viz :-

1 Mattress)	
4 Library Books	)	Infectious Diseases.

(7) DISINFESTATION -

40 premises were treated for pests, as follows :-

Ants	...	5
Cockroaches	...	3
Fleas	...	6
Flies	...	5
Wasps (nests)	...	21

Number of treatments at such premises :-

Ants	...	6
Cockroaches	...	12
Fleas	...	7
Flies	...	7
Wasps (nests)	...	28

60

(8) PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928 -

The following Storage Licences were granted under the above Act :-

Petroleum Spirit only	...	...	...	...	57
Petroleum Spirit & Petroleum Mixtures	...			...	7
Petroleum Mixtures only	...	...	...	...	6
Petroleum Mixtures & Carbide of Calcium	...				1
					<hr/>
					71
					<hr/>

The quantities stored were as follows :-

Petroleum Spirit	...	207,970 gallons
Petroleum Mixtures	...	2,450 "
Carbide of Calcium	...	56 lbs.

The amount of fees received by the Corporation in respect of such Licences was £56. 0. 0d.

(9) EXPLOSIVES ACTS, 1875 & 1923 -

The number of Premises Registered for the Storage of Mixed Explosives (fireworks, cartridges, etc.) was 34.

(10) FACTORIES ACT, 1961 -

The following tables show Inspections, etc. carried out during 1965 :-

(a) INSPECTIONS :

Premises	Number on Register	Inspect- ions	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosec ^d ..
1. Factories in which S.1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by L.A.	17	1	-	-
2. Factories not incl. in (1) in which S.7 is enforced by L.A.	144	58	-	-
3. Other Premises in which S.7 is enforced by L.A. (excluding Outworkers' Premises	19	-	-	-
TOTAL	180	59	-	-

(10) (b) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions institd.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspect.	by H.M. Inspect.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	7	5	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):-					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	8	6	-	1	-

(10) (c) OUTWORK :

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of Out-workers in Aug. list (S.133, (1)(c))	No. of cases of default in sending lists	No. of prosecutions for failure to send lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel (making, etc.)	60	-	-	-	-	-
Lace, Lace-curtains, Nets	8	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ...	68	-	-	-	-	-

(11) THE FOLLOWING IS A DETAILED LIST OF SANITARY OPERATIONS CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR 1965 :-

Nature of Works Done	Public Health Acts	Housing Acts	Food & Drugs Act	Factories Acts
New sets house drains laid	1	-	-	-
Drains repaired	36	-	-	-
Drains cleared	54	-	-	-
Smoke & water tests applied	1	-	-	-
New vent pipes provided	3	-	-	-
Fresh air inlets provided	2	-	-	-
New inspection chambers built	10	-	-	-
New interceptors fixed	1	-	-	-

(continued :-

DETAILS OF SANITARY OPERATIONS (continued)

Nature of Works Done	Public Health Acts	Housing Acts	Food & Drugs Act	Factories Acts
New soil pipes fixed	3	-	-	-
New gullies fixed	4	-	-	-
New W.C. pans provided	7	-	-	-
Additional W.Cs. provided	-	1	-	-
W.Cs. repaired	-	-	4	-
W.Cs. disconnected	-	-	2	-
New flushing cisterns provided	-	1	-	-
Flushing cisterns repaired	1	-	-	-
Roofs repaired or renewed	3	2	-	-
Rain pipes repaired	1	-	-	-
Guttering renewed or repaired	4	2	-	-
Plaster repaired - external	1	2	-	-
" " - internal	1	2	-	-
Dampness remedied	1	2	-	-
Lighting improved	-	-	1	-
Ventilation improved	-	-	5	-
Floors repaired or renewed	-	-	3	-
Yards paved	1	-	-	-
Yards repaired	1	-	-	-
Water supply improved	1	-	-	-
Sink waste pipes fixed	1	-	-	-
Rooms cleansed	-	-	27	7
Articles of clothing cleansed	-	-	2	-
Food protected from contamination)	-	-	30	-
Bins provided	7	-	-	-
Offensive accumulations removed	3	-	-	-
Vermin and other pests eradicated)	60	-	-	-
Premises where nuisances abated	116	-	-	-
Houses demolished	-	6	-	-
Houses closed	-	-	-	-
Part Houses closed (e.g. Basements)	-	2	-	-
Miscellaneous	2	-	-	-

(12) SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, ETC.

Total visits made	...	...	...	3,736
Houses inspected - Public Health Acts	...	...	...	529
" " - P.H.A. (re-visits)	...	...	...	246
" " - Housing Acts	...	...	...	29
" " - H.A. (re-visits)	...	...	...	72
Visits to Slaughterhouse	...	...	...	1,352
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	46
Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	72
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	268
Bakehouses	...	...	...	16
Milk Vehicles (including sampling)	...	...	...	8
Dairies	...	...	...	9
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	36
Shops Act	...	...	...	10
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	...	...	...	226
Caravans	...	...	...	9
Factories	...	...	...	59
Rodent Control	...	...	...	34
Refuse Tip	...	...	...	303
Petroleum Storage	...	...	...	10
Infectious Disease Investigation	...	...	...	1
Offensive Trade Premises	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous Letters written	...	...	...	46
Statutory Notices - Public Health Acts	...	...	...	Nil
" " - Housing Acts	...	...	...	4
Informal Notices - Public Health Acts	...	...	...	23
" " - P.H.A. (secondary)	...	...	...	20
Verbal Notices	...	...	...	49
